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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

26 AUGUST 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – California Saw Increased Killings, Violent Crime in 2021

(U) California saw an uptick in violent crime in 2021, including an increase in homicides, according to data released Friday by state officials. The figures are part of the California Criminal Justice Statistical Report released by state Attorney General Rob Bonta. According to the data, California saw a 7.2-percent increase in homicides 2,202 in 2020 to 2,361 in 2021. The latest figure is far from the state's historical high of 4,095 murders in 1993. However, homicides and violent offenses in general have increased in a similar fashion to many municipalities facing upticks in crime in recent years. Around three-quarters of the killings involved a firearm, Bonta's office said.

SOURCE: 25 August 2022, Fox News

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US CBP Officers Seize \$390,000 in Fentanyl

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Laredo Port of Entry recently seized \$390,000 in fentanyl in a passenger vehicle. CBP officers assigned to the Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge encountered a 2013 Volkswagen Jetta driven by a male Mexican citizen arriving from Mexico. A CBP officer referred the vehicle for further inspection, which included utilizing non-intrusive inspection equipment. After conducting a thorough secondary examination, CBP officers seized 12 packages containing a total of 28.66-pounds of alleged fentanyl concealed within the vehicle.

SOURCE: 25 August 2022, US CBP

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Ohio Man Arrested on Charges for Actions During US Capitol Breach

(U) Washington – An Ohio man was arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges for his actions during the breach of the US Capitol on 6 January 2021. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the US Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election. Jonathan Joseph Copeland, 28, of Fort Shawnee, Ohio, is charged in a criminal complaint filed in the District of Columbia with assaulting, resisting, or impeding law enforcement officers with a dangerous weapon and interfering with a law enforcement officer during a civil disorder, both felony charges. He also is charged with five related misdemeanor offenses.

SOURCE: 25 August 2022, US DoJ

(U) Florida – Man Found Guilty on Hate Crime Charges for Attacking Black Man

(U) Seminole – A federal grand jury found a man guilty on hate crime charges for a racially motivated attack on a Black man traveling with his family. The victim was driving with his daughter and girlfriend in August 2021, when Jordan Patrick Leahy, 29, spewed racial slurs and attempted to run him off the road for nearly a mile. The two drivers then encountered each other at a light, where Leahy got out of his car and tried to assault the man as he continued to yell racist tirade.

SOURCE: 25 August 2022, The Guardian

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Australia – Police Seize Record Two-Tons of Methamphetamine

(U) Sydney – Authorities have found two-tons of methamphetamine hidden in marble tiles shipped from the Middle East to Sydney in what police describe as the largest-ever seizure of the illicit drug in Australia. Three men were arrested after 1,649-pounds of the drug were found early this month hidden in 24 containers that arrived at Port Botany. Another 2,337-pounds were found in 19 containers that arrived at the same port last week. Police estimate the meth's street value at \$1.1 billion. No further arrests have been made since last week's seizure. Investigators have turned their attention to identifying the overseas suppliers.

SOURCE: 25 August 2022, Associated Press

(U) Ireland – Two Men to Appear in Court on Terrorism Charges Connected With New IRA Probe

(U) Belfast – Two men are to appear in court in Belfast to face terrorism charges in connection with the dissident group the New Irish Republican Army (IRA). A 62-year-old man and a 51-year-old man have both been charged with belonging or professing to belonging to a proscribed organization, directing a terrorist organization and preparation of terrorist acts. The charges came following the arrest of four men as part of Operation Arbacia. The other two men, aged 30 and 27, were released on report to the Public Prosecution Service. Arbacia is an ongoing long-term investigation to look at every aspect of the activities of the New IRA.

SOURCE: 25 August 2022, Belfast Telegraph

(U) Turkey - Thirteen Suspected ISIS Arrested

(U) Ankara – Thirteen people were arrested in a counterterrorist operation over suspected links to the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Some of those detained are believed to have been in touch with ISIS members while in conflict zones, while others operated as members themselves. ISIS became globally known in 2014, when it declared itself a worldwide caliphate and conducted terrorist attacks in Iraq, Syria, as well as Turkey, forcing Ankara to launch counterterrorist operations at home and abroad against the terrorist group.

SOURCE: 26 August 2022, GOA Chronicle

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